

February 5, 1976

PRESIDENT: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. We went through this same thing on Select File. The same arguments were being presented then that are being presented now. I object to returning this to Select File for the specific amendment for the very reasons that I gave on Select File. Granted, this is a national organization. I want to also remind you of this, the National Guard receives their paycheck from the same source -- the national level. From that standpoint they are on an equal basis. We also have a unit in Nebraska that brings in \$6 million in economy to the State of Nebraska each year. While there is an attempt being made on the national level to do just the criticism expressed here is for, it is not now done. We are the ... the Reserves are, in some instances, close to the minimum to be maintained in Nebraska. Once we reach that or drop below, these units are going to be moved outstate and Nebraska is going to lose that prestige and the revenue that is now Nebraska.

This is a minimal amount. I assure you, that if something is done on the federal level, that I will be the first to appear before you and ask that this be deleted.

We have, as I've mentioned before, have had an understanding with the Guard that the Reserves would not fight their request for support in recruiting, and we did not. But when we came then we find that there are those who are fighting us which is a betrayal of a word that we think is not a credibility factor to the National Guard.

I have visited with General Winter myself. They are not taking a position on it as far as his office is concerned. I again say to you that this same discussion has taken place before. You supported the bill on Select File. I urge you to turn down this motion and vote to approve and pass LB 266.

PRESIDENT: Senator Swigart.

SENATOR SWIGART: Mr. President, colleagues. I think ... I know, in fact, I rise to support Cal Carsten on his bill and am opposed to killing it.

I think we must just face the facts of life about this thing. In our free enterprise life it's just like black and white pretty near that there's competition in everything. If they can't get this program in the State of Nebraska it's going to be done elsewhere. They'll be moved. We just have to face the facts of competition, even in this area. If we can't get recruits or keep them, then the program goes someplace else and we lose these wonderful people in the Reservist category.

I think it would be tragic to bring this back and to change it. It is moderate, I don't think it would be over \$50,000. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Murphy.